from the famous Gundicha temple in Orrisa and 300 year old brass idol of Radha was stolen from the Gopal Tirtha temple at Puri;

(b) whether the idols have so far been recovered ; and

(c) what action have been taken by Government to prevent theft of idols in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir, according to available information. However, these are not centrally protected monuments.

(b) According to reports, only the brass idol of Radha has been recovered.

(c) Several measures have been taken by Government to prevent theft of idols in the country including Orissa :

1. Watch and Ward arrangements have been strengthened in the centrally protected monuments.

2. A separate Circle with headquarters at Bhuvaneshwar has been opened in April, 1985 for better maintenance and security of monuments.

3. Under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, the notified categories of antiquities are being registered.

4. The export trade in antiquities and art treasures and compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures, besides licensing of antiquity dealers have also been provided in the said Act, 1972.

5. The sculpture sheds, one at Lalitgiri and the other at Konarak have been constructed by the Archaelogical Survey of India.

6. A computerised data bank of cases of theft and recoveries of important cultural properties (Sculptures, idols paintings illustrated manuscripts), containing information about crimes and criminals is being maintained by the Central Bureau of Investigation).

7. Documentation of loose sculptures, paintings, illustrated manuscripts is in progress.

Filling up the Post of Deputy Chairman of UGC

1721. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Deputy Chairman of the University Grants Commission is lying vacant ;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therfore; and

(c) by when the new incumbent is likely to be appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) On the expiry of the three-year term of Prof. Rais Ahmed, the post of Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission has been lying vacant since 23-6-1985. The question of appointment of the new Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission is under the consideration of the Government.

National Highway No. 8

1722 SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to widen/strengthen or improve the National Highway No. 8 leading to Jaipur with the coming up of the Vigyan Nagar Industrial Project, 105 Km. from Delhi during 1986-87; and